

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 10 – 14 were allowed, claims 18 – 21 were objected to as depending upon an rejected base claim (claim 15) but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim any intervening claims; and the remaining claims were rejected. As discussed below, claims 1 – 9 were previously cancelled; claim 15 has been amended; and claim 18 has been cancelled. Claims 10 – 17 and 19 – 21 remain and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner issued a double patenting rejection for claims 1 – 9. As illustrated by the attached copies of the Preliminary Amendment and postcard indicating receipt of the Preliminary Amendment by the Patent Office on December 1, 2000, Applicant respectfully submits that there are no claims 1 – 9 in the present application, and thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

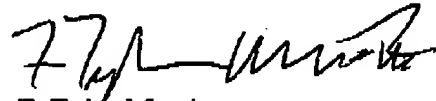
Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 18, and accordingly Applicant submits that amended claim 15 is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, and for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims – claims 10 – 17 and 19 – 21 - in condition for allowance, as are the respective dependent claims.

Applicant petitions for a one-month extension of time to file this response. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 21-0279 (Order No. EH-10177A) in the amount of \$110.00 for the petition fee. Applicant believes that there are no other fees due for submitting this response. Please charge any additional fees to the above deposit account number.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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